

[Mr. and Mrs. Wolford Hopkins]

[S260?] Dup c15 2/27/41 Nebraska

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS North Platte

DATE Nov. 25, 1938 SUBJECT Negro Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Mr and Mrs. Wolford Hopkins, [1008?] W. 8th North Platte (Rebecca)
2. Date and time of interview Evening of 25th
3. Place of interview Their house 1008 W. 8th
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. 4 room home comfortable, clean appearing and warm at time of interview. A nice radio, heatrola and electric lamps made an inviting front room.

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS North Platte

DATE Nov. 25, 26, 1938 SUBJECT Negro Folklore

NAME OF ADDRESS OF INF0RMANT Mr. Wolford Hopkins, Mrs. Hopkins (Rebecca)

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1. Ancestry Negro
2. Place and date of birth Not divulged
3. Family 1 son
4. Place and date of birth
5. Education, with dates Mrs. Hopkins has had to 10th grade, Mr. Hopkins has had less schooling.
6. Occupations and accomplishment, with dates Worked as section man on R. R. at Keystone. In 1929 started working for Haler Buick Co. N. Platte where he is still occupied.
7. Special skills and interests
8. Community and religious activities Mr. Hopkins is President and Mrs. Hopkins treasurer of new church mission organization.
9. Description of informant Mr. Hopkins slender, tall about 6 ft. very queer, bad eyes, quite bald. Mrs. Hopkins reticent, well fleshed tho not obese. A pleasant smile and a charm about her personality, appears younger than she is.
10. Other points gained in interview Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins are considered the most substantial and outstanding negro couple in North Platte. Two other [negroes?] were present. I had hesitated about going to this home but as I couldn't get the interview other wise I felt forced to do so. I have never encountered more elegant manners.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Ruby E. Wilson ADDRESS North Platte

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DATE Nov. 25, 26, 1938 SUBJECT Negro Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mr. & Mrs. Wolford Hopkins (Rebecca) N. Platte

Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins agreed that the number of North Platte negroes is just about 35. Negroes are segregated, they say in restaurants and in hotels, not as much so in schools tho very few negro children attend North Platte schools.

One negro girl, Dorethea Simmons graduated from high school here. She was the only negro to graduate locally they think. But, they say, her mother had such high ideals for her daughter and surrounded her with such wonderful advantages of books and music, crafts and lores and hobbies, to say nothing of hand picking the girls friends to carefully that she was seldom allowed the acquaintance of other negro children as they were considered not sufficiently choice: the result was that Dorethea ostracized herself from her race and because she and her mother were considered by the white people such fine characters they were generally accepted. Dorethea was a well liked church worker among the white people and was a thoroughly charming young lady. She was never a snob but was more or less unhappy with townspeople of her own race because they just didn't speak her language. She was frail having suffered a spinal curvature as a little child. She had been treated and straightened but she was small and spry but not strong.

The colored people rather resented Doretheas activity among the white people, especially after she started working on WPA Recreation when she could, they say, have done a good bit for the young people of her own race. Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins think there are only 2 or 3 negro children in school.

Working conditions are good, they say, for colored people who want work. There are negro families on relief or relief work and only one case on any kind of relief which is an old age case.

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This couple affirmed that it is impossible to get a modern home for colored people in this town and that land lords simply never do any repairing or cleaning for Negro tenemants tho Mr. Hopkins believes negroes take as good care of the places they rent as the white people.

North Platte negroes are all in fairly good health, none of them sick except for the old.

Mr. Hopkins has worked in the same place since 1929 when he came here.

Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins are very much interested in the new church mission movement among the colored people. The colored minister, whom, they say, is a graduated graduate of the National Theological Seminary of Nashville Tenn, is their house guest.